desh Dairy Development Corporation. However, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has approved 'inancial asssitance of Rs. 59.21 crore for financing of Milk processing and other allied facilites under Operation Floods III Programme being implemented by the district level mlik cooperative unions and their apex body, the Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Cooperative Fdderat£on. Against the approved provision, NDDB has disbursed Rs. 43.53 crore upto February, 1993.

Production of Tobacco

1353. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that during the coming harvest season, tobacco production is expected to exceed the target;

(b) whether Government have been approached by the small and marginal tobacco growers for an increase in the hsare of authorised cropping;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Tobacco Board has not been discharging its; assigned functions on the lines of Rubber Board as there are persistent demand from the growers for more auction platforms; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated to alleviate the tobacco growers grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b): No national target of production of tobacco is fixed. However. Tobacco Board fixes the crop size for Virginia tobacco each season after assessing the demand and supply For 1992-93 season, a crop szie of 21 million kilograms was authorised for Karnataka and 103 million kilograms for Andhra Pradesh. As against this, the estimated production in Karnataka is 32 million kilograms. While that for Andhra Pradesh it is estimated at 120 million kilograms.

Having regard to the nature of commodity and marketing environment for it in the country an dabroad, it has been the policy of the Government to restrict the production and supply of tobacco so as to ensure a remunerative price to the farmers.

(c) and (d): The optimum quantity to be handled at each tobacco auction platform is about 4 to 5 million kilo grams. At the beginning of the aution season, Tobacco Board fixes the numbtr of auction platforms to be operated after assessing the crop size and taking into consideration the optimum quantity to be handled by each platform. Maximum care is taken to avoid inconvenience to the farmers.

Dryland Farming Projects in Gujarat

1354. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of dryland arming porject implemented in Gujarat during last ye&r; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the yield of crops in dry areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Statement enclosed (See below)

(b) The Watershed Development Projects have been designed or in-situ water conservation and propagation o integrated dryland Farming Technology to increase the yield in rain-fed areas.